

FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

"The Churches of Christ Salute You"

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ANSWERS

Boyd E. Morgan

Answers are very important. Ten questions were sent to me with the request that I answer through the paper and that I give Bible answers. I assure all, that Bible answers are the only ones that I am interested in. We welcome questions at any time.

1. Was the Sabbath changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week? Answer: No. The Sabbath was done away. Col. 2:14-16. Sunday is not the Christian Sabbath. The Bible nowhere teaches that it or any other day is a Christian Sabbath. Neither do we keep it as a Sabbath.

2. Were the apostles baptized in water? Answer: Yes. Matthew 3:5. 'All' means all. Since the apostles were called in Judea and from along the sea of Galilee, and Jordan flows out from the sea of Galilee, it is the region 'round about' Jordan. 'All' still means all.

3. Did they baptise anyone in water? Yes. John 4:1-2. This plainly says they did the baptising.

4. Were they commanded to meet on the first day of the week? Evidently so far they did and gave us their example. Acts 20:7. Paul knew it, too. Heb. 10:25.

5. Did they meet on the first day of the week for worship? Yes. Breaking bread is worship. Acts 20:7.

6. Did they receive salary for preaching? Sometimes they received compensation. Phil. 4:15-16. Sometimes they made tents. Acts 18:3, etc.

7. Did they take up collections? I Cor. 16:1-2. If it be argued that 'laying by in store' was not a collection, Paul said they were to do so that there be no 'gathering' when I come. Hence, 'gathering' would not be anti-scriptural.

8. Did they offer invitation for membership? Not to my knowledge, as we do so today by singing a song.

Folks were not so hard hearted against the truth when they recognized it those days. They received the word of God with gladness. An invitation song is merely an expedient and to 'come up at an invitation' is entirely unnecessary, though not anti-scriptural. I will baptize anyone whom I believe to be sincere and who will let me know. I have baptized many who did not come up at an 'invitation'. I am told that our brethern in England do not sing an invitation song. However, to sing one is not wrong, but the question does not so imply and I will cease my comments and stay with the question.

9. Did they ever take the Lord's Supper after the crucifixion consisting of the bread and wine? Yes. I Cor. 10:16. Note the 'we'.

10. What church did they belong to? The only one the Bible tells about. Acts 2:41-47.

These questions are but quibbles, but come on. I have time for both quibbles and quibblers.

—B. E. M.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PAPER

Mrs. Ernest Jones, \$1; Bud Johnson, Alton, \$2; Mrs. Elbert C. Smith, Kevel, Ky., \$1; Mrs. Harry Berry, \$2; Horace Cherry, \$1; Bud Kearsy, \$1; J. E. Kentcheloe, \$1; Ira G. Woodward, \$1; Mrs. Pearl Corley, Dallas, Texas, \$5; Mrs. Gertie McElhaney, Corning, Ark., \$3; Arch Humphrey, \$5.

We sincerely regret the loss to this vicinity of our co-laborer, Bro. Ira G. Woodward. Bro. Woodward has been transferred by his company to Caruthersville, Mo. and has moved there with his family. Bro. Woodward is already filling appointments, preaching, in the new section. Our sincerest regards and best wishes for him and his follow them.

JUST WHAT CAN YOU DO?

"I cannot sing"

"I cannot usher."

"I cannot preach."

"I cannot lead prayer"

"I cannot teach a class."

"I cannot go to Bible study".

"I cannot-uh-sorry, call Bob."

"I cannot drive our car—nerves."

"I cannot help at the Lord's table."

"I cannot come to mid-week services"

"I cannot speak to visitors—I'm timid."

"I cannot give—haven't any extra money."

Question: Just what can you do?

Answer: Make a pile of excuses.

THE CONSECRATED CAR

He couldn't speak before a crowd,

He couldn't teach a class,

But when he came to meetings,

He brought the folks "enmasse."

He couldn't sing to save his life;

In public, couldn't pray,

But always his 'jalopy' was just

Crammed on meeting day.

And though he could not sing,

Not teach, nor lead in prayer,

He listened well, he had a smile,

And he was always there

With all the others he had brought,

Who lived both far and near—

And God's work prospered—for he

had

A consecrated car.

SHORTS

"A tranquil heart is the life of the flesh; but envy is the rottenness of the bones." Prov. 14:30.

The teacher who is interested in the lesson never fails to interest the students.

—H. Leo Boles

Sponsored By:

Welcome Hill Church of Christ

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and Union Hill churches

Editors: Clovis Ragsdale and
Boyd E. Morgan

NOTICE: If baptism does not save,
we are still waiting for an explanation
of I Pet. 3:21.

EDITORIAL

Living in a land where freedom of speech and religion is granted is a wonderful thing. We have a civil right to follow our own ideas. Yet it becomes dangerous when we confuse our civil rights with our divine rights. Just because we are at liberty to follow the religion of our choice does not at all mean that it is the religion of God's choice. Where God has spoken men have no divine right to teach or speak otherwise and absolutely no choice but to accept God's way. Isaiah 55:8-9. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Think of these verses the next time you hear some one say, 'I believe this or that,' when you know God's word has stated definitely God's will about the matter. The Bible reveals the pattern for salvation and the church and how men are to worship God. The Bible is final and plain. Yet men change this pattern to suit their own ideas and opinions. This is often done by setting up a manual, discipline, or some kind of creed books or by meeting in conventions and conferences.

Christians who are attempting to worship according to the way outlined in the New Testament object to these opinions of men. We warn of the dangers of this practice. For our warnings we receive in return, ridicule, scorn, are called 'Campbellites,' and 'damned to hell.' Our plea is simply that God's word be the sole authority in matters concerning religion.

When we let our own ideas and opinions become so entrenched in our minds, we fail to see many of the simpler things taught in the Bible. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were so blinded by their traditions that they could not understand the parables our Saviour taught them. They refused to be taught the truth.

All who have a spirit of love and a desire to please the Lord will try the doctrine they hear as did the Bereans of Acts 17 and search the scriptures to see if the things they hear are so. So many people are so lazy about studying their Bibles that they will take what their preacher says and never study for themselves. In I John 4:1; II Peter 2:1; Mark 13:22; and Matt. 24:11, we are warned to beware of false prophets.

Life is too short, eternity is too long for men to take chances with the destiny of their souls. The only safe course is to humbly obey the teaching found in God's inspired word and then we can be assured that heaven will be our home.

—Clovis Ragsdale

The Mammoth Spring church has purchased the Ira G. Woodward residence in Mammoth Spring for a preacher's home. Bro. Morgan is living in it and is at home to his friends there.

Don't grumble, don't bluster, don't dream, and don't shirk. Don't think of your worries, but think of your work. The worries will vanish, the work will be done. No man sees his shadow who faces the sun.—Selected

WHAT DOTH HINDER ME?

Orbie Robbins — Elizabeth, Arkansas

The thought for this lesson is suggested by a statement made by the Eunuch of old. After hearing Philip's sermon on the subject of Jesus, he asked: "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" Acts 8:37.

Many need to consider this question seriously. Scriptural baptism is more than being immersed in water. A number of things may hinder a person from baptism.

1. Lack of faith can be one thing that hinders. Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 8:12-13. Faith must always precede baptism. An infidel cannot be baptized. This unbeliever might be put under water, but from a spiritual standpoint, it certainly wouldn't do him any good. Faith is a prerequisite to baptism. For that reason, the gospel must be preached. Rom. 10:17. Unbelief as a hindering cause is easily eliminated by seriously hearing and heeding God's word.

After the Eunuch heard Philip preach Jesus unto him, unbelief was not a hindrance to him. He became a believer. Acts 8:38.

2. Lack of repentance hinders baptism. Acts 2:38. The fact that one requests baptism is evidence he is turning from his sins. I have always followed the policy of baptizing those who request it, realizing if sincerity and repentance are missing that baptism is no good without it. I feel faith, sincerity, and repentance should be emphasized in our preaching. But if I know that one did not intend to turn from his sins, I would try to teach him before I baptized him.

Lack of repentance should not hinder long, the person who thinks seriously. Solomon taught that the way of the transgressor is hard. Prov. 13:15. Why shouldn't one want to turn from evil to good? Certainly the righteous life is the best life to live. I do not say it is always easiest. It is hard to break from evil associations and sinful habits, but it is undoubtedly best to do so.

3. Refusing to confess Christ before men hinders baptism. Rom. 10:

9-10. The Eunuch did not allow that to hinder him for he said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God." This is the confession that Paul declared in Rom. 10:9 should be made with the mouth. The penitent believer does not hesitate to make this confession. He rejoices to express what his heart believes. The words of this confession are not just empty words. If Jesus is the Christ, He is the Saviour, the King, the supreme authority. He who is raised from the dead is able to raise us up also, giving us the glorious hope of heaven. This hinderance is easily removed.

4. Lack of understanding the purpose of baptism is a hinderance. Rom. 6:17. Many who have even been put under water have been hindered in acceptable, scriptural baptism because they have not been taught the truth on this subject. Baptism is **not** an outward manifestation of an inward work of Grace. Search your Bible and try to find that there. It isn't in the Bible. Here are the scriptural reasons I find why one should be baptized.

(1) Christ commanded it. Mt. 28:19; (2) Peter commanded it. Acts 10:48; (3) To be saved. Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 22:16; I Pet. 3:21. (4) For the remission of sins. Acts 2:38. (5) To get into Christ. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27. Were you baptized for the above reasons? It will pay you to check. If you were baptized because you claimed you were already saved and in order to join some denomination you were not scripturally baptized and your baptism is not Bible baptism. Neither is baptism a church ordinance, it is a command of the Lord that must be obeyed to be saved from past sins.

I am sure this did not hinder the Eunuch. He knew why he was baptized. The heart is made glad when one knows the sinful past has been erased. The Eunuch rejoiced **after** he was baptized. No one should allow anything to hinder him from being baptized. All things which hinder are easily removed.

OVERCOMING PREJUDICE

Marion Farley — Dallas, Texas

Many good people today are not Christians because of **PREJUDICE**

Upon consulting Webster concerning this word, we find this definition: "Pre-judgment without due examination."

If we should hear of a Judge pronouncing sentence without any evidence whatsoever, we wouldn't hesitate to say he should be removed from being a Judge. We certainly would be justified in the same.

But would this be any worse than to Prejudge the church that teaches that baptism is necessary for the remission of sins; as it was taught and practiced by the New Testament church in the days of the apostles? Is it because father, mother, kindred or friends have taught you it is NOT God's appointed way?

Nathanael is a clear cut example of overcoming prejudice, as recorded in (Jno. 1:43-49).

In this scripture we find Jesus calling Phillip who in turn hastened to bring the good news to Nathanael. Hear him as he exclaims: "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph."

Now listen to Nathanael as he answers, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Haven't you heard of some people, (maybe talked to some) just as **BIASED** as was Nathanael?

Had not Nathanael been an honest seeker of truth, no doubt he would have turned a deaf ear to Phillip and refused to make any investigation, for, according to his belief, he did not think any good could come from a Nazarene.

Notice Phillip's way of arousing his interest in the Master, as he simply says, "Come and see."

Fortunately, Nathanael was not numbered with those Jesus accused thusly, "For this peoples' heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their

heart, and should be converted, and

I should heal them." (Matt. 13:15).

When individuals say they wouldn't change their religion if they knew they were wrong, they most certainly are among those Esaias prophesied of, as quoted by Jesus in the above language.

It has ever been God's law to first consider evidence before passing judgment. Even under the law of Moses, it was necessary to have two or three witnesses' testimony to condemn a person.

Religious friends and neighbors, it is of vital importance that you lay aside ALL preconceived ideas, and prejudice caused by listening to, and giving heed to the theoris of men, many of which have not the faintest resemblance to the doctrine the apostles taught so faithfully, giving their very life's blood to defend rather than to denounce or to change in the least.

Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing". (Matt. 7:15).

The great apostle Paul in Acts 20 and verse 29 said, "For I know this, that after my departure shall greivous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

If no other scripture could be cited (and much more can be) than these, it would be sufficiently clear that error is to be exposed whenever and wherever found. It is true that it will be extremely sad for false teachers in the day of judgment, but also true that those that allow themselves to be led astray, especially in this enlightened age, will also be lost eternally.

The church of Christ invites you to 'come and see'. There is a friendly welcome for you at all times, where all things are done that pertain to the worship service, after apostolic example. We CAN, and WILL, give you book, chapter and verse for it ALL. Have you examined your own religion to see if this can be said of it?

'Come and see,' and make the comparison, I dare say you will be surprised, and many will be saved that otherwise would have been lost.

WELCOME HILL CHURCH

Marvin Ed Berry

The residences of the Welcome Hill members is spread over a radius of several miles. This has been and always will be a drawback. However, we have accomplished a great deal, and in all humility would like to let others know what can be done in a small rural congregation if the members are willing to work and are not willing to be discouraged because they are few in number.

For several months we have been having Sunday night services with someone to preach. For awhile we had Bro. James Zink for two Sundays each month. He spoke Sunday morning and evening. One Sunday we have Bro. Cavin from Sturkie. He can only be here in the morning, so we have Bro. Clovis Ragsdale, Bro. Irwin Cowan or some of the members here preach for us. From the time this was started we could see people becoming more interested in church work and more and more our Sunday evening crowds are increasing as we learn how important it is. We have also had Wednesday night Bible study for sometime and all enjoy it. We have two classes for the small children and one adult class. We have several attending from other congregations when they do not have mid-week study.

This past spring we had our annual lectureship of six nights with a different speaker each night. This summer we sponsored the Camp meeting and had one of our own and again this fall sponsored a six nights meeting for Camp. These people are growing, too, and will soon be able to help themselves and others more. We also helped with the building at Camp.

This summer we bought a bus, which the brethren painted and fixed up to pick up people who want to go to church but do not have transportation. During our meeting two persons were baptized who were riding the bus, so it has paid for itself many times over already. We run it for every service.

Our heating system was very unsatisfactory, especially in the class rooms, so last winter we put in a gas heating system that works nicely.

We also helped buy the tent that has been very busy this summer and hope it will be even busier next year.

The church is giving \$10 per month to the mission work of Bro. Hillard Story in Italy.

We feel we should get to know one another better, so to do this it has been decided that we will have a fellowship meeting twice a month in our homes. The first one will be the third Friday night in October at the Tom Ary home.

On the second Friday night of the month, the men have a business meeting to better plan the work.

Some of the members supplement the bus with their cars to get folks to service.

Please understand we do not intend this to sound like we are patting ourselves on the back. We are not. After all, whatsoever we do must be to the glory of God, for we are all his, together with all we have. We are to use all to the best of our ability.

From what we have done, we can see what we must do in the forthcoming year. Responsibility begets responsibility. Each month we have a financial bulletin printed to let each member know how we stand and how the funds of the church are used.

The Mammoth Spring meeting with Bro. L. N. Moody doing the preaching closed Sunday night, October 9 with eight baptized. Certainly it was a very good meeting with some excellent preaching. We rejoice most over the good results.

The 'Gospel Meeting of the Air' conducted the first ten days of October over radio station KALM, Thayer, Mo. and KWPM, West Plains, Mo. is believed to have been very successful. Word was received for several localities up to as far as one hundred miles. Two of the baptismal services at Mammoth Spring were added to the regular services. We believe this is the first radio broadcast of baptismal services. At least, it is to

our knowledge. We had the very best of cooperation from the radio stations in making the meeting successful and we can commend their services to you freely.

Perhaps some are wondering how much such a meeting cost. We are giving this to you, not from a boastful view, but from a standpoint of considering that some be interested in broadcasting their services. Total cost over both stations was \$25 per service. \$250 for the ten days. We consider the money well spent. The meeting was conducted in cooperation with and with consent of the West Plains, Thayer, and Mammoth Spring churches. The meeting at Mammoth Spring was broadcast. The radio meeting was supported by the following persons as shown: Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Ragsdale, \$15; Boyd Morgan, \$10; Boyd Anderson, \$10; Claud Miller, \$10; George Huett, Jr., \$10; James Shaver, \$10; Sister Myers, \$10; Dennis Nicholson, \$10; Harold Jackson, \$10; C. Cecil Smith, \$10; Clyde Smith, \$10; Eugene Hurt, \$10; Cecil 'Shorty' Smith, \$10; Luther Nicholson, \$10; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Powell, \$10; Thayer church of Christ, \$25; Mrs. Troy Huett, \$5; George Huett, Sr., \$5; T. Shelt Taylor, \$5; Roy Hurt, \$5; Edith Kirksey, \$5; Marvin Ed Berry, \$5; Mrs. Harry Berry, \$5; Martha Armstrong, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Peck, \$5; Ernest Jones, \$5; R. W. McGuire, \$5; Dell Stephens, \$5; Jane McGibnev, \$5; Mr. and Mrs. Horace Cherry, \$2; C. L. Owens, \$2; Tom Harrell, \$1; Bynam Dunsmore, \$1; Mrs. Jim Martin, \$1; Elmer Poulson, \$1; Homer Campbell, \$1; Mrs. Smith, (Salem), \$1; Sid Frazier, \$1; Marth Briggs, \$1; G. W. Tucker, \$1. The total amount received was \$258.00. We had the further assurance of the West Plains church helping if needed. The \$8 not used is turned over to the Mammoth Spring church. It is commendable and appreciated, too, that \$86 of the amount was contributed by folks who were interested and not members at Mammoth Spring. We use this means to thank everyone, both at home and elsewhere for your help. It was reminiscent of the Bible account of building the temple.